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Ida H. Grant to Ma, January 6, 1890

Ida Honoré Grant

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Jan. 6th 1870

Dear Ma

We have a very nice New

Years and Christmas,

which, I trust, all

at home had also, —

I have gotten a lovely new

Sal. Hue Brocade (red or

pink rose over it) Made in

Kauzone style Trimmed

with some very fine white

lace Mrs Grant gave me

This dress is very elegant
the Court train, which is
not excessively long, lined
with flannel, and and the
dress cut low square, with
lace collar - high — This dress
I have given with your friend
and will have much use
for it, as Lady Paget will
receive every Tuesday dur-
ing this month. The Princess
Kens (German Ambassador's)

every Thursday. Then he goes on
time during the season to the Rothschilds
who receive for the Emperor. By the way
then dines tomorrow evening with the Emperor
at the palace, a Diplomatic Dinner, and
of course, as the Empress is in deep black, ^{and has no one}
no ladies can be invited. Just as my
pale blue was finished, Cards came around
to us, that he was to be in mourning, all
black 8 days, and second mourning 10 days
for the Empress of Brazil. - I have had a
new waist made to my black tulle, exactly
like the old, because when I was leaving
New York. Everyone who saw me said it
saw I had better always wear that dress
in Vienna as I looked better in it, than in
any other. - I am going to have the black
Abel Aunt Sam's from me made up.

5th
11

Went into a train dress
with white for second
morning - As far as
Leontine black jewelry to
wear when we cant wear
diamonds - We were so
sorry not to have him here
during the holidays, as he
promised, but don't be sorry
to know of his having the
"Influenza", which is, in bad
form, a really painful
malady - Our boy and

I went through with it, but
Fred and Julia escaped.

Very Spleenetic and all
we know, have gone
through with it, and the
greatest danger is that
people are left very weak
and do not take enough
care afterwards not to take
cold. - Then the inflamma-
tion of the lungs comes on.
I am preaching this day
because, I know it is now

in America and I am afraid of losing it
as I know how little care you take of your-
self always - I think you should just stay
in the house, so that you won't catch it
That is the only safe guard - I undoubtedly
it is not only in the air but some what
contagious - and it is very nice just to
stay indoors, and guard against having
it - as it some times leads very strong
men very very weak - The old Russian
Ambassador, is the only one here, whom we
know, who has escaped this sickness, and
he has stoutly refused to go out for three
weeks - Fred and I are much charmed
with the way we are received, accepted
here, in the place where people are so
unfriendly with strangers and so long
in taking them in - The Ambassadors

9th

put Fred on the shoulder
most familiarly, those who
are remarked as being
great in putting on pressure.
They treat him much more
cordially than they do other
Ministers - The Sages
(he is the Minister-President
over all the Superiors & other
Ministers) is most friendly
and the Countess Sages
whose Opera Box is next
ours, asked that I go to her

Mr. Brown coming down
down the steps she is old
and afraid of falling -
and begged us to come to
see some painting she
had - etc. The other
Ministers who were near
by, seemed quite amazed,
made very low bows, not
having arrived at such a
state of familiar acquain-
tance during their first
or six years stay here -
Every thing is rank, and
all know General Grant's name

own record, so Fred is taken right in
Normally here a Group Minister might stay
three years, and simply have the ceremoni-
ous cash acquaintance of the high people
but they are really most cordial with Fred.
The Russian Ambassador sent his official
card, then came in person on New Year's
Day writing something of greeting
on his card - and this was done by every
single Ambassador which is not always
done - The custom is, if they wish to show
you any attention on New Year's Day to
leave their cards (there is no calling ^{on street day} save
you) then since New Year's season of the
Ambassadors have called again briefly
see us, the Russian among them and
made long informal visits - He seems
to like Fred immensely too, as he is very
quiet and natural in his manner. Miss

13th -

Should he mentioned three
times that he wished to
take us out to see the
Summer Palace himself
when the weather would
permit - Hearing all
this you may think we
are being very gay, and so
we are for such a quiet
old-fashioned place, but
all the gaiety will be con-
centrated now into six
weeks and it is all on
a regular rule and set.

than anything to be seen
in any way the dress and
Whirl of London or any
American City - We have
many calls to make and
receive, the men King's Office
to call, as much as the
women, there is not as
much ceremony about their
visits and our carriage
has to be at the door regu-
larly at a certain hour &
go with us. There is quite a
"fait" and goes very regularly.
Then there are great crowds

reception's drawing. The dinner to be pleasant
Dinner are most rare - The English
Ambassador's was very elegant, but ^{simple}
compared to a good French dinner - A large
A Dresden Candelabra in the center surround-
ed by small jars of mint - The table
was round - 14 at table - Every course
served on silver, until the desert, which
was on Dresden China - No flowers
simple men, and white shades over

the candles. The marked feature of the
evening was the dinner who served.

Three men down at the first door to
take our wraps - Then the Grand "Chas-
seur" at top of their case in magnificent
suit like our many officers, then the
Maitre d'hotel to light the curtain for
us to enter the Salon - At table there
was the Chasseur who said that we
all got the right seats. The Maitre d'hotel

17
and six other men, the
last in very fancy breeches
and much gold lace.

The rank is indicated en-
tirely by the numbers and
breeches of the servants.

Otherwise, the dinner was
all very simple and natural.
Mince-pies because it
was Christmas. Madame
Mazel whose husband holds
higher rank than I do,
went in with her Angoumois
and I next, with the Secretary.

I cannot but say, that
was very elegant speaker
English fluently and well
Capt. Keir on the other side
of him - the best in Prince
Battagani of high rank.
So I was very agreeably pleased
As to the least understanding
about from one thing to
another here, it is useless
I and everyone has plenty
of time to rest from now, in
what is termed the time of
Carnival - Tomorrow the
Emperor's Annives will occur

At six o'clock and every one must
be there 15 or 10 minutes before hand promptly
The forms are not like those of a Modern
Society. The Austrians send out most impor-
tant invitations only two days before hand and
if asked to dinner, do not reply frequently
until the afternoon of the same day of the
entertainment. The Diplomats keep up a
perpetual howl about stiffness of the
Austrians, and the dull Society of Vienna.
But we are quite satisfied and delighted here.

We have a telegram from Mr. Talwadge
the great Brooklyn preacher saying he will
arrive tomorrow evening, he wrote before this
saying, he was coming to Vienna, and if
I could arrange it for him, he would
like to see something of Mazzini, that is
of course the most embarrassing thing
he could ask, as so few of those trips in
Europe and living here does see the Emperor.

And the Empress desires
 no one now. I suppose
 this gentleman probably
 thinks Fred takes lunch with
 the Emperor every day —
 We will have dinner
 for him and just after
 take him to the Opera and
 make the excuse of their
 mourning as the reason
 that he is not received into
 the bosom of the Royal
 Family — He is a great talker
 and we want to please him.
 This Emperor and Empress

Keep themselves in seclusion
and do not have audiences
as they do in Russia or
Germany — Now I have
even on with a lot of new
lines, and written a very thin
pink, less some letters as I al-
ways do, when my real ob-
ject in writing was really
to beg for and all, to take
care of yourselves not to
get the "Influenza" and if
you do, please stay indoors
afterwards for weeks, not
to take cold — and have
any of this dreadful influenza

things that are going around. Mr. Wisniewski
scratches are going for Aunt Laura and
his but all I say expressly about people
must be kept diplomatically quiet of course.

Since writing the above we have had
several calls, and now I must close
with the hope that you are all, very
very, well, and that you will take
special care of yourselves if you get the
"Influenza" from what the papers say it
takes a more form in the United States
than it has in Europe, except in Paris.

I hope some of you will write to me
you have time, and I want to hear
if his 'glass was arrived safely, or
was broken. I feel anxious about it.
I don't wish to mention that I paid for the
opera box out of his present to me so
I am quite set up by you all. Affectionately
Edith